



MLK III: History to remember Sinema unkindly over filibuster

(AP) — Martin Luther King III came to Arizona with harsh words for Democratic Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, whose refusal to change the Senate's Jim Crow-era filibuster rules makes voting rights legislation unlikely to pass. King told a crowd campaigning to protect voting rights that Sinema cannot simultaneously express support for the legislation while also blocking their approval.

"History will remember Sen. Sinema, I believe unkindly, for her position on the filibuster," the civil rights leader's eldest son said as the nation prepares to mark the birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

With his wife Andrea Waters King; and their daughter Yolanda Renee King, 13, the family joined a

march in Phoenix with local activists and supporters from Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, a predominantly Black church, and spoke about the importance of "no celebration without legislation."

"Our daughter has less rights around voting than she had when she was born," King said in an interview. "I can't imagine what my mother and father would say about that. I'm sure they're turning over and over in their graves about this."

Arizona is one of 19 states that have passed more than 30 state voting laws in the last year — including a ban on giving water to voters in long lines, and stricter ballot signature requirements — that King called "draconian."



Martin Luther King III, with the Deliver For Voting Rights organization, wraps up his speech at the Eastlake Park Amphitheater in Phoenix on Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022. As the nation prepares to mark the birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., some members of his family are spending it in conservative-leaning Arizona to mobilize support for languishing federal voting rights legislation. (Zac BonDurant/The Arizona Republic via AP)

Continued on next page

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Continued from Front

They make it harder for people to vote, especially people of color, he said. Another reason the family chose to appear in Arizona is to send a message to Sinema. President Joe Biden had implored her and Sen. Joe Manchin, a Democrat from West Virginia, to end the filibuster rules that require 60 of 100 senators to pass most legislation. Sinema poured cold water that idea Thursday, making clear in a dramatic speech on the Senate floor

that while she supports the voting rights legislation, she would not alter filibuster rules so it could move forward. The filibuster, she said, forces bipartisan cooperation. Otherwise, Republicans could just repeal and replace whenever they rise to power.

"We must address the disease itself, the disease of division, to protect our democracy," said Sinema, drawing disappointment from fellow Democrats. Sinema was jeered by some of the hundreds of people

attending Saturday's rally after the Rev. Warren Stewart, a prominent Black clergy member and activist, said she was among "those ... who would hide behind procedure."

The rally was held at Eastlake Park, which for decades during segregation was a gathering place for Blacks not welcome in other parts of the city.

The plea from the King family brings an especially powerful voice to an increasingly tense campaign to pressure Sinema to



Martin Luther King III speaks during a rally for voting rights, Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021, on Capitol Hill in Washington. As communities across the nation prepare to mark the birthday of the Rev. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin, File)

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change her mind. Progressive groups have installed billboards and aired television ads, and activists even harassed Sinema in a bathroom at Arizona State University and a friend's wedding where the senator officiated.

Congressional Democrats have written voting legislation that would usher in the biggest overhaul of U.S. elections in a generation by striking down hurdles to voting enacted in the name of election security. The legislation also would reduce the influence of big money in politics and limit partisan influence over the drawing of congressional districts.

It also includes the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, a bill that would strengthen civil rights-era voting law and honor the legacy of the late Georgia congressman. Supporters had hoped legislation would advance by Monday's MLK holiday. Still encouraged, King urged people to take action like sign petitions or call their senators. The holiday is "not

a traditional celebration where you kick back, eat barbeque and just relax," he said. "This is about working." The Rev. Jesse Jackson, having worked closely as a young man with Martin Luther King Jr., said Friday that he was worried about the current lack of political consensus on voting rights. Previously, Republicans and Democrats in Washington have voted to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act of 1965, with both parties recognizing the historic nature of the legislation.

"The right to vote was the crown jewel of the civil rights struggle," Jackson said in a phone interview, adding that "we're in a desperate situation." Ultimately, he agrees with members of the King family who are pushing for MLK Day celebrations to take a different tone until Congress acts on the voting rights bills.

"There's no time to celebrate," Jackson said. "It's time to demonstrate, march in big numbers. We cannot just be silent observers in this fight." □

British national ID'd as hostage-taker at Texas synagogue

By Jake Bleigerg, Eric Tucker and Michael Balsamo
Associated press

(AP) — Authorities on Sunday identified a 44-year-old British national as the man who took four people hostage at a Texas synagogue for 10 hours before an FBI SWAT team stormed the building, ending a tense standoff that President Joe Biden called “an act of terror.”

Malik Faisal Akram was shot and killed after the last of the hostages got out at around 9 p.m. Saturday at Congregation Beth Israel near Fort Worth. In a statement, the FBI said there was no indication that anyone else was involved, but it didn't provide a possible motive.

Akram could be heard ranting on a Facebook livestream of the services and demanding the release of a Pakistani neuroscientist who was convicted of trying to kill U.S. Army officers in Afghanistan. The FBI and police spokeswoman declined to answer questions Saturday night about who shot Akram when the standoff ended. Video from Dallas TV station WFAA showed people running out a door of the synagogue, and then a man holding a gun opening the same door just seconds later before he turned around and closed it. Moments later, several rounds of gunfire could be heard, followed by the sound of an explosion.

“Rest assured, we are focused,” Biden said during a visit to a food pantry in Philadelphia on Sunday morning. “The attorney general is focused and making sure that we deal with these kinds of acts.”

Biden said the suspect was able to purchase weapons on the street and may have only been in the country a few weeks. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement did not immediately respond to questions Sunday about Akram's immigration status and history.

London's Metropolitan Police said in a statement that its counter-terrorism police were liaising with U.S. au-



Police stand in front of the Congregation Beth Israel synagogue, Sunday, Jan. 16, 2022, in Colleyville, Texas. A man held hostages for more than 10 hours Saturday inside the temple. (AP Photo/Brandon Wade)

thorities about the incident. FBI Special Agent in Charge Matt DeSarno said the hostage-taker was specifically focused on an issue not directly connected to the Jewish community, and there was no immediate indication that the man was part of any broader plan. But DeSarno said the agency's investigation “will have global reach.”

It wasn't clear why Akram chose the synagogue. Law enforcement officials who were not authorized to discuss the ongoing investigation and who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity earlier said the hostage-taker demanded the release of Aafia Siddiqui, a Pakistani neuroscientist suspected of having ties to al-Qaida who is in a federal prison in Texas. He also said he wanted to be able to speak with her, according to the officials, one of whom confirmed that the hostage-taker was a British national.

A rabbi in New York City received a call from the rabbi believed to be held hostage in the synagogue to demand Siddiqui's release, a law enforcement official said. The New York rabbi then called 911.

Police were first called to the synagogue around 11 a.m. and people were evacuated from the sur-

rounding neighborhood soon after that, FBI Dallas spokeswoman Katie Chaumont said.

Saturday's services were being livestreamed on the synagogue's Facebook page for a time. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported that an angry man could be heard ranting and talking about religion at times during the livestream, which didn't show what was happening inside the synagogue.

Shortly before 2 p.m., the man said, “You got to do something. I don't want to see this guy dead.” Moments later, the feed cut out. A spokesperson for Meta Platforms Inc., the corporate successor to Facebook Inc., later confirmed that Facebook had removed the video.

Multiple people heard the hostage-taker refer to Siddiqui as his “sister” on the livestream. But John Floyd, board chair for the Houston chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, — the nation's largest Muslim advocacy group — said Siddiqui's brother, Mohammad Siddiqui, was not involved.

“This assailant has nothing to do with Dr. Aafia, her family, or the global campaign to get justice for Dr. Aafia. We want the assailant to know that his actions are wicked and directly

undermine those of us who are seeking justice for Dr. Aafia,” said Floyd, who also is legal counsel for Mohammad Siddiqui. “We have confirmed that the family member being wrongly accused of this heinous act is not near the DFW Metro area.”

Texas resident Victoria Francis told the AP that she watched about an hour of the livestream before it cut out. She said she heard the man rant against America and claim he had a bomb. “He was just all over the map. He was pretty irritated and the more irritated he got, he'd make more threats, like ‘I'm the guy with the bomb. If you make a mistake, this is all on you.’ And he'd laugh at that,” she said. “He was clearly in extreme distress.”

Francis, who grew up near Colleyville, tuned in after she read about the hostage situation. She said it sounded like the man was talking to the police department on the phone, with the rabbi and another person trying to help with the negotiations.

Colleyville, a community of about 26,000 people, is about 15 miles (23 kilometers) northeast of Fort Worth. The synagogue is nestled among large houses in a leafy residential neighborhood that includes several churches, a middle and

elementary school and a horse farm.

By Sunday morning, the police perimeter around the synagogue had shrunk to half a block in either direction and FBI agents could be seen going in and out of the building. A sign saying “Love” — with the “o” replaced with a Star of David — was planted in a neighbor's lawn.

Congregation Beth Israel is led by Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker, who has been there since 2006 as the synagogue's first full-time rabbi. He has worked to bring a sense of spirituality, compassion and learning to the community, according to his biography on the temple's website, and he loves welcoming everyone, including LGBT people, into the congregation.

In a Sunday morning post on what appears to be Cytron-Walker's Facebook page, the rabbi thanked law enforcement and first-responders. “I am grateful we made it out. I am grateful to be alive,” he wrote.

Rabbi Andrew Marc Paley of Dallas, who was called to the scene to help families and hostages upon their release, said Cytron-Walker acted as a calm and comforting presence who was responsive to the instructions given to him. The first hostage was released shortly after 5 p.m. That was around the time food was delivered to those inside the synagogue, but Paley said he did not know if the food delivery was part of the negotiations.

“He appeared a little unfazed, actually, but I don't know if that was sort of shock or just the moment,” Paley said of the first hostage after his release. “He was calm and grateful to law enforcement and Rabbi Charlie.”

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said on Twitter that he had been monitoring the situation closely. “This event is a stark reminder that antisemitism is still alive and we must continue to fight it worldwide,” he wrote. He said he was “relieved and thankful” that the hostages were rescued. □

Michigan AG asks feds to investigate fake GOP electors

(AP) — Michigan's attorney general is asking federal prosecutors to open a criminal investigation into 16 Republicans who submitted false certificates stating they were the state's presidential electors despite Joe Biden's 154,000-vote victory in 2020.

Dana Nessel, a Democrat, disclosed Thursday that her office had been evaluating charges for nearly a year but decided to refer the matter to the U.S. attorney in western Michigan.

"Under state law, I think clearly you have forgery of a public record, which is a 14-year offense, and election law forgery, which is a five-year offense," she told MSNBC's Rachel Maddow. But the Justice Department, she said, is best suited to probe and potentially prosecute.

The spokesperson for the U.S. attorney's office declined to comment Friday. Nessel alleged a "coordinated effort" among Republican parties in several battleground states including Michigan to push so-called alternate slates of electors with fake documents. She said she wants federal authorities to make



Attorney General Dana Nessel announces charges for several security guards from Northland Mall in the 2014 death of McKenzie Cochran during a news conference in Detroit on Thursday, Oct. 14, 2021. (Max Ortiz/Detroit News via AP)

an evaluation for possible charges.

American Oversight, a watchdog group, last March obtained certificates submitted by Republicans in seven states: Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. New Mexico and Pennsylvania Republicans added a caveat saying it was done in case they were

later recognized as duly elected, qualified electors. New Mexico Attorney General Hector Balderas, a Democrat, announced he was referring his state's case to federal authorities as well even as "review under state law is ongoing." "Election laws are the foundation of our democracy and must be respected," he said.

On Jan. 8, 2021, the Office

of the Federal Register — which coordinates certain functions of the Electoral College between states and Congress — notified Michigan's elections director and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's chief lawyer in an email that it received unofficial, signed certificates from GOP electors who had not been appointed by the Democratic governor. The group includes

Republican National Committeewoman Kathy Berden and Meshawn Maddock, co-chair of the Michigan Republican Party.

State GOP spokesperson Gustavo Portela accused Nessel of sitting on the information for a year and "playing political games with people's lives and livelihoods for the sake of scoring political points ahead of an election." The Associated Press left messages seeking comment from Berden and Maddock on Friday.

Democratic Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson's office last month gave the email to a U.S. House committee investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection. When Michigan's electors cast 16 votes for Biden in December 2020 following the certification of his 2.8 percentage point win, a separate group that included some Republican state House members tried to enter the state Capitol with Donald Trump's Electoral College candidates. They were turned away by state police but claimed in the certificates that they met "in the State Capitol." □

Snow, ice blasts through South with powerful winter storm



Vehicles navigate hazardous driving conditions along Interstate 85/40 as a winter storm moves through the area in Mebane, N.C., Sunday, Jan. 16, 2022. (AP Photo/Gerry Broome)

Associated Press

(AP) — A dangerous winter storm combining high winds and ice was sweeping through parts of the U.S. Southeast on Sunday, knocking out power, felling trees and fences and coating roads with a treacherous frigid glaze.

Tens of thousands of customers were without power in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida. More than an inch of snow fell per hour in some parts of the Carolinas, Georgia, Tennessee and Virginia, according to the National Weather Service Storm Pre-

diction Center.

The storm was making air travel extremely difficult in some parts of the South. The nation's hardest-hit airport -- Charlotte Douglas International -- remained open around dawn Sunday, the airport said in a weather briefing. But more than 1,000 Sunday flights in Charlotte have been cancelled -- more than 80% of the airport's Sunday schedule, according to the flight tracking service flightaware.com. Charlotte is a major hub in the South for American Airlines.

In Atlanta, where Delta Air Lines operates its main hub, more than 300 Sunday flights have been canceled.

Conditions were expected to continue to deteriorate later Sunday, and possible ground stops were possible

at airports in the Washington, D.C. area, the Federal Aviation Administration said in its air traffic control plan for Sunday.

Parts of North Carolina were under a winter storm warning until Monday morning. Raleigh was experiencing a mix of frozen precipitation.

Frank Pereira, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, said to expect a "significant ice storm across portions of the central Carolinas," including the Charlotte metropolitan area.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation said Sunday that Interstate 95 was closed in both directions between Lumberton and Fayetteville due to low-hanging power lines. Freezing rain had been reported in the area. Trans-

portation officials advised drivers to take a detour and said they hope to reopen the road by 2 p.m.

More than 250,000 customers were without power by late morning Sunday, according to poweroutage.us. Especially hard hit was Georgia, with nearly 110,000 outages. South Carolina had nearly 90,000 customers without power. The remaining outages were in Florida, North Carolina and Tennessee.

Crews pretreated roadways in Tennessee, Kentucky and West Virginia but officials still urged people to stay off them unless travel was necessary. The Tennessee Highway Patrol said in a tweet that some roads in East Tennessee were snow-covered and that troopers were working several accidents due to ice. □

Pacific tsunami threat recedes, volcano ash hinders response

By Nick Perry
Associated Press

(AP) — The tsunami threat around the Pacific from a huge undersea volcanic eruption receded Sunday, but the massive ash cloud covering the tiny island nation of Tonga prevented surveillance flights from New Zealand to assess the extent of damage.

Satellite images showed the spectacular eruption Saturday evening, with a plume of ash, steam and gas rising like a mushroom above the blue Pacific waters. A sonic boom could be heard as far away as Alaska.

In Tonga it sent tsunami waves crashing across the shore and people rushing to higher ground.

The eruption cut the internet to Tonga, leaving friends and family members around the world anxiously trying to get in touch to figure out if there were any injuries. Even government websites and other official sources remained without updates on Sunday afternoon.

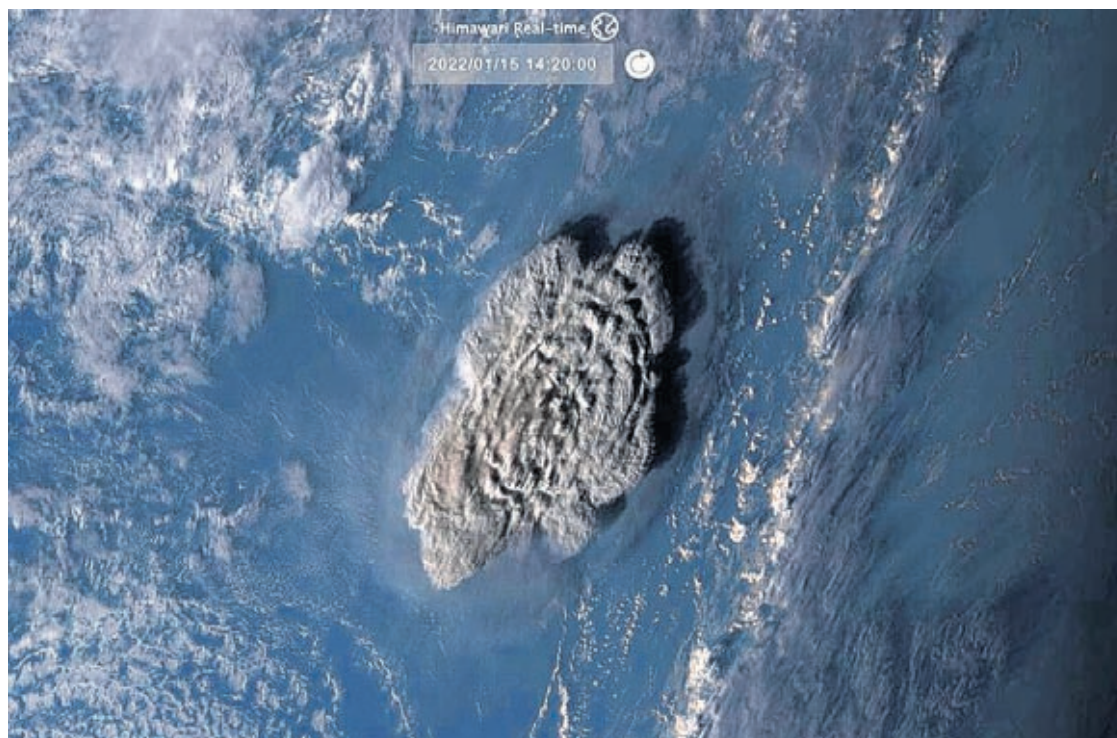
New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said there had not yet been any official reports of injuries or deaths in Tonga, but cautioned that authorities hadn't yet made contact with some coastal areas and smaller islands.

"Communication with Tonga remains very limited. And I know that is causing a huge amount of anxiety for the Tongan community here," Ardern said.

She said there had been significant damage to boats and shops along the Tongan coastline. The capital, Nuku'alofa, was covered in a thick film of volcanic dust, Ardern said, contaminating water supplies and making fresh water a vital need.

Aid agencies said thick ash and smoke had prompted authorities to ask people to wear masks and drink bottled water.

In a video posted on Facebook, Nightingale Filihia was sheltering at her family's home from a rain of volcanic ash and tiny pieces of rock that turned the sky



This satellite image taken by Himawari-8, a Japanese weather satellite operated by Japan Meteorological Agency and released by National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT), shows an undersea volcano eruption at the Pacific nation of Tonga Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022. (NICT via AP)

pitch black.

"It's really bad. They told us to stay indoors and cover our doors and windows because it's dangerous," she said. "I felt sorry for the people. Everyone just froze when the explosion happened. We rushed home." Outside the house, people were seen carrying umbrellas for protection.

Ardern said New Zealand was unable to send a surveillance flight over Tonga on Sunday because the ash cloud was 63,000 feet (19,000 meters) high but they hoped to try again on Monday, followed by supply planes and navy ships. One complicating factor to any international aid effort is that Tonga has so far managed to avoid any outbreaks of COVID-19. Ardern said New Zealand's military staff were all fully vaccinated and willing to follow any protocols established by Tonga.

Dave Snider, the tsunami warning coordinator for the National Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer, Alaska, said it was very unusual for a volcanic eruption to affect an entire ocean basin, and the spectacle was both "humbling and scary." The tsunami waves caused damage to boats as far away as New Zealand and Santa Cruz, California, but did not appear to cause

any widespread damage. Snider said he anticipated the tsunami situation in the U.S. and elsewhere to continue improving.

Tsunami advisories were earlier issued for Japan, Hawaii, Alaska and the U.S. Pacific coast. The U.S. Geological Survey estimated the eruption caused the equivalent of a magnitude 5.8 earthquake. Scientists said tsunamis generated by volcanoes rather than earthquakes are relatively rare.

Rachel Afeaki-Taumoepeau, who chairs the New Zealand Tonga Business Council, said she hoped the relatively low level of the tsunami waves would have allowed most people to get to safety, although she worried about those living on islands closest to the volcano. She said she hadn't yet been able to contact her friends and family in Tonga.

"We are praying that the damage is just to infrastructure and people were able to get to higher land," she

said.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken wrote on Twitter he is "deeply concerned for the people of Tonga as they recover from the aftermath of a volcanic eruption and tsunami. The United States stands prepared to provide support to our Pacific neighbors."

Tonga gets its internet via an undersea cable from Suva, Fiji. All internet connectivity with Tonga was lost at about 6:40 p.m. local time Saturday, said Doug Madory, director of internet analysis for the network intelligence firm Kentik.

On Tonga, which is home to about 105,000 people, video posted to social media showed large waves washing ashore in coastal areas and swirling around homes, a church and other buildings. A Twitter user identified as Dr. Faka'ilootonga Taumoeolau posted video showing waves crashing ashore.

"Can literally hear the volcano eruption, sounds pretty violent," he wrote, add-

ing in a later post: "Raining ash and tiny pebbles, darkness blanketing the sky."

The explosion of the Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai volcano, about 64 kilometers (40 miles) north of Nuku'alofa, was the latest in a series of dramatic eruptions. In late 2014 and early 2015, eruptions created a small new island and disrupted international air travel to the Pacific archipelago for several days.

Earth imaging company Planet Labs PBC had watched the island in recent days after a new volcanic vent began erupting in late December. Satellite images showed how drastically the volcano had shaped the area, creating a growing island off Tonga.

"The surface area of the island appears to have expanded by nearly 45% due to ashfall," Planet Labs said days before the latest activity.

Following Saturday's eruption, residents in Hawaii, Alaska and along the U.S. Pacific coast were advised to move away from the coastline to higher ground. Savannah Peterson watched in shock as the water rose several feet in a matter of minutes in front of her oceanfront house in Pacifica, California, just south of San Francisco.

"It came up so fast, and a few minutes after that it was down again. It was nuts to see that happen so quickly," she said. "I've never had water come all the way up to my front door, and today it did."

In northern Peru's Lambayeque region, two women drowned after being swept away by "abnormal waves" following the eruption, authorities said. A dozen restaurants and a coastal street were also flooded along El Chaco beach in Paracas district. □



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French far-left presidential hopeful woos voters with jobs

Associated Press

(AP) — Far-left French presidential candidate Jean-Luc Melenchon embraced migrants and Russia and derided campaign rivals Sunday as he sought to reinvigorate his flagging campaign for April's election with an unusual "immersive and olfactory" rally.

Yes, olfactory: The campaign team diffused various smells into the exhibition hall in the western city of Nantes, surrounding participants with screens and speakers.

While the videos were powerful, with ocean waves and starscapes transporting the crowd as Melenchon talked about sea pollution and the dangers of wars in space, the aromatic part was a bit of a flop. The masked crowd had trouble smelling anything at all, or identifying the scents — some described fruity or marine aromas, others reportedly smelled gasoline — or their connection to what Melenchon was saying.

The event came as the once-powerful French left wing is deeply fractured and struggling to make its voice heard in a campaign where far-right and conservative figures have



French Far-left presidential candidate for the 2022 election Jean-Luc Melenchon gestures as he speaks during a meeting in Nantes, western France, Sunday, Jan. 16, 2022. (AP Photo/Jeremias Gonzalez)

grabbed most of the attention so far. Melenchon — a political firebrand with a notorious temper — refuses to form a united front with other left-wing candidates against centrist President Emmanuel Macron, who's expected to seek re-election. At Sunday's rally, Melenchon promised to guarantee jobs for everyone, raise the minimum wage, lower the retirement age to 60 and hike taxes on multinationals and rich

households. His campaign platform calls for France to pull out of NATO, disobey EU rules, legalize cannabis, renationalize some businesses, block energy price rises, and spend more on fighting racial and other discrimination. While other candidates are railing against migration, Melenchon said migrants are "welcome" in France, calling immigration the "No. 1 factor" in human progress. He also proudly called Rus-

sia a "partner," even as European governments are scrambling to find ways to avert a possible Russian invasion of Ukraine.

And he had little kindness for his rivals on the left.

"We don't need union. We need clarity and people's mobilization," he said. "I'm not their friend."

Melenchon has criticized the French government's vaccine and virus rules as too restrictive, but his team distributed masks at the en-

trance to Sunday's event. The 70-year-old Melenchon drew attention in the 2017 presidential race for holding simultaneous campaign rallies via hologram. A similar show is planned for early April.

He was the strongest-performing left-wing candidate in 2017, winning 19.6% of the vote, but came in fourth. This time there are six left-wing candidates vying for the April 10 first-round vote, and polls suggest none will make the likely runoff of the top two vote-getters on April 24.

Many voters are undecided and the field of candidates is still shifting. According to pollsters, Macron's strongest challengers so far are far-right leader Marine Le Pen, who he beat in the 2017 runoff; conservative Republican candidate Valerie Pécresse, who visited a migrant camp in Greece this weekend to push for stemming migration to Europe; and populist far-right pundit Eric Zemmour, who has been repeatedly convicted of hate speech.

Other contenders include Socialist Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo, Greens party candidate Yannick Jadot, and former justice minister Christiane Taubira. □

Mali ex-President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita dies at 76



Mali's former president Ibrahim Boubacar Keita has died nearly 18 months after he was ousted in a military coup. Keita's death was announced Sunday, Jan. 16, 2022 in Bamako, where the 76-year-old had been battling health problems in recent years. (Ludovic Marin/Pool Photo via AP, File)

(AP) — Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, the former president of Mali who took office in a landmark election held after a destabilizing coup only to be ousted in another

military takeover nearly seven years later, has died. He was 76.

Keita, known to Malians by his initials IBK, had been in declining health since his

forced resignation in August 2020, and had sought medical treatment in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, shortly after his release from junta custody.

His death early Sunday — announced in an alert by the state broadcaster ORTM — comes as the sprawling African nation faces a deepening political crisis. The coup leader who ousted Keita has no immediate plans for a return to democracy as initially promised.

Keita won the historic 2013 presidential election held to restore democracy after a 2012 coup. But only seven years later he himself was ousted by another military takeover following months of public demonstrations

against his presidency. Keita had three years left in his final term when mutinous soldiers detained him at his residence in August 2020 after firing shots outside the house. Hours later, he appeared in a midnight broadcast on state television, telling Malians he would resign immediately.

"I wish no blood to be shed to keep me in power," Keita said at the time. "I have decided to step down from office."

West African regional leaders imposed tough economic sanctions earlier this month after Col. Assimi Goita, who heads the transitional government, indicated that the next presidential election won't be held until 2026, after initially

agreeing to an election by the end of next month.

A protest movement against Keita's presidency saw tens of thousands demonstrate in the streets in the months leading up to his overthrow. As discontent with his leadership mounted, Keita had tried to make concessions to his critics, saying he was even open to redoing the vote. But those overtures were swiftly rejected by opposition leaders, who said they wouldn't stop short of Keita's departure.

Support for Keita also tumbled amid criticism of his government's handling of the Islamic insurgency, which significantly expanded into central Mali during his tenure. □





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Netanyahu negotiating plea deal in corruption trial

(AP) — Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is negotiating a plea deal in his corruption case, a person involved in the talks said Sunday. The deal, which could be signed as early as this week, could usher Netanyahu off the Israeli political stage for years, paving the way for a leadership race in his Likud party and shaking up Israeli politics. Any deal could spare Netanyahu an embarrassing and protracted trial over an issue that has gripped the nation and risks tarnishing his legacy. Reports of a deal angered

critics who said it would undermine the rule of law. "The man who worked to destroy the public's trust in the foundations of democracy for personal reasons is not eligible for deals," Health Minister Nitzan Horowitz tweeted. He was referring to Netanyahu's attempts after he was indicted to cast doubt on Israel's justice system, saying it was biased and pursuing a witch hunt against him. Demonstrators gathered against the developing deal outside the attorney general's house Saturday evening. Any deal will likely



Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is negotiating a plea deal in his corruption case. A person involved in the negotiations said Sunday, Jan. 16, 2021, that the agreement is likely to be announced in the coming days and could usher Netanyahu off the Israeli political stage for years. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo, File)

be challenged in court.

A spokesman for Netanya-

hu declined to comment. Netanyahu is on trial for fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in three separate cases. The former premier, now opposition leader, denies wrongdoing. The person involved in the negotiations said the plea deal would drop the bribery and fraud charges and scrap one case entirely. The person asked for anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss the details of the talks. He said a plea deal would likely be announced in the coming days. □

Portugal's election campaign begins under pandemic limits

Associated Press

(AP) — The official two-week campaigning period for Portugal's Jan. 30 general election kicked off Sunday, but there will be none of the large flag-waving rallies usually associated with the buildup to the ballot because of the coronavirus pandemic. The vote comes two years ahead of schedule after parliament in November rejected the minority Socialist government's 2022 state budget and the country's president, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, called an early election.

The state budget is particularly important now because it sets out how billions of euros in European Union aid to recover from the

pandemic will be spent. The ballot will elect 230 lawmakers to the Republican Assembly, Portugal's parliament. Lawmakers will then vote on who forms a government. The center-left Socialist Party has governed Portugal since 2015 under Prime Minister António Costa, and recent opinion polls unanimously indicate the Socialists will collect the most votes. But the Socialists could again fall short of an overall majority, forcing it once again to seek support from its left-of-center allies, the Left Bloc and the Portuguese Communist Party, to pass legislation in parliament. The parliamentary votes of

those two parties helped keep the Socialists in government, consigning the center-right Social Democratic Party — the country's other major party — to opposition. The election could see a rise in the influence of smaller parties, including the populist Chega! (Enough!), which earned one seat in parliament in 2019 but could far exceed that this time. Around 89% of Portugal's population of 10.3 million people is fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and more than 3.5 million people have received booster shots, but new daily cases have set records of around 40,000 in recent weeks. The health ministry reported



People queue to vote at a polling station at the University of Lisbon, Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021. The official two-week campaigning period for Portugal's Jan. 30 general election is kicking off, though due to the coronavirus pandemic there will be none of the large rallies usually associated with the buildup to the ballot. (AP Photo/Armando Franca, File)

38,136 new infections on Saturday. Even so, hospitalizations have remained much lower than in previ-

ous surges, and Portugal has been recording on average around 20 deaths a day in recent weeks. □

LOCAL



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PALM BEACH — MedCare's Fit2Fly COVID-19 Testing Centers has improved its services when it comes to turn around time for results. As of November its offering same day test results (previously it was 24 hours) on both PCR and Antigen tests.

This in part is to comply with the updated December 6, CDC requirement for travel to the United States, where all air passengers, regardless of vaccination status, must show a negative COVID-19 test taken no more than 1 day before travel to the United States.

MedCare Fit2Fly Testing Center at the Cove Mall is opposite the Holiday Inn and is open every day for walk-ins from 8 AM through 6 PM. MedCare's other location is situated at The Courtyard by Marriott Aruba Resort, is across the street from the RIU Hotel and is open every day from 8:00 AM until 2 PM. These two locations are at a stone's throw from your resort, condominium, or other vacation accommodation. Walk-ins are welcome.

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- The Ritz-Carlton Resort.

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Private bookings

For your convenience, Medcare also offers private testing at your accommodation/hotel room for a one-time service fee of \$120. This fee covers testing up to 10 people (one appointment, at one location and a specific time). Additional persons will be charged \$10 per person. Regular testing fees applies. □

For more information, please contact:

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Update COVID-19 January 10, 2022

ORANJESTAD – Here is the latest update on the ongoing COVID situation in Aruba.

On January 16 2022, Aruba registered 257 new cases, of which 73 were non-residents. The number of active positive cases is 1500, whereas the average daily cases over the past seven days total 831. The positivity rate stands at 64%.

Aruba in the fifth Wave:

In the first wave in March 2021, we reached 69 confirmed cases. The second wave in August 2020 registered 1630 confirmed cases. The third wave occurred at the end of 2020 and caused 700 confirmed cases but lasted longer. The fourth wave happened in July 2021 with 1076 registered cases, and the fifth wave started in December 2021.

Hospitalizations:

In August 2021, COVID-related hospitalizations reached an alarming level. The government imposed a curfew from 10:00 pm - 5:00 am. The hospital reached its full capacity and had no room to treat patients injured in car accidents. Consequently many patients were sent to Colombia for hospitalizations. During the 4th wave, the hospital almost entered into Code Black (where there are not enough beds to treat patients), and drastic measures were needed to ease the surge.

This 5th wave does not require any drastic measures so far, as there are only 21 patients in the hospital of which three are in the ICU and 19 on the general ward.

According to the Prime Minister, the current situation at the hospital is under control. This is the indicator for the authorities whether to impose more or fewer measures.

The Prime Minister emphasized that they are constantly searching for the right balance between healthcare and the economy.

The measures are as follows since of December 30, 2021

- Curfew: NO Curfew
- Closing Time: 12:00 am for all business for the exception of Casino's which can stay open till 1:00 am
- Restaurants: Max. 6 people per table.
- Social Activities and Sports: Max. people: 60 indoors, 75 outdoors.
- Funerals: Max. people: 75 (if the space is adequately large enough)
- Area Ban 7:00 pm - 5:00 am
- Nightlife: Dancing is not permitted
- Entertainment: Max 5 musicians on stage.
- Gathering Ban: Max. 6 people.

- Shopping: 1 person per family

The following measures remain applicable:

- Masks: Use of masks is mandatory inside at all establishments.
- Alcohol: Ban of alcohol on public roads: 24 hours.
- Social Distancing: Continue maintaining social distance.

New isolation and quarantine guidelines

The Crisis Team, after thorough consideration of the different advice and analysis, has changed the isolation and quarantine guidelines. Once a person gets a positive SARS-CoV-2 test result, the person should isolate for five days and avoid contact with others in the household. The five days of isolation start on the date the person received the positive test result.

If after five days in isolation you still have symptoms, you must continue to isolate until you no longer have symptoms. After 24 hours without any symptoms, the person

should complete the form sent by email. Those living in the same house as the person who tested positive should quarantine for 5 days, starting on the day they had immediate contact with the person who tested positive and should wear masks at all times. The person who tested positive must inform others living in the same home about the positive test result. The isolation and quarantine protocols are included in the email sent to anyone who tests positive. Please be aware that the DVG will no longer contact those who tested positive or anyone living in the same household. The DVG urges those who tested positive to complete the form that sent by email and to provide information about everyone living in the same home that needs to quarantine.

Exceptions as of Jan 8, 2022

Persons that have received the booster shot (so all 3 vaccine shots) and persons that were infected with Covid within past 4 weeks no longer need to quarantine when a housemate tested positive. □

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Aruba's underwater wonderland

ORANJESTAD - Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating under water spots, where you can take your snorkeling gear and we selected the top spots for you.

Tres Trapi

Tres Trapi means tree steps in Papiamentu, Papiamen-



to is together with Dutch the official language spoken on Aruba. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by the tree steps carved into the rocks. Tres Trapi is a small rocky beach, located on the north-western side of the island, approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you can easily walk over the beach into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While snorkeling you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea

stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animal, keep your distance and enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.

Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own ship sink, to



prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its portside in Malmok bay, and the sunken word war two ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.

Baby Beach

Baby beach; a white beach, with a crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant tempera-

ture. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Baby beach is an excellent beach for snorkeling, especially if you want to go with small children, because the water remains shallow and there are still many underwater wonders to see. In the ocean there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.

Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. You reach the beach by a bridge through the mangroves and then you will have several entrances to the sea. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, wooden stairs made to enter the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is just like snorkel heaven. □

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Rising costs add to pandemic pain for small businesses

Associated Press

(AP) — In just two weeks, the cost of pecans for the pies at Peggy Jean's Pies in Columbia, Missouri, has surged nearly 40%, perplexing co-owner Rebecca Miller and adding to the cost of doing business. Miller will soon have to bump up the price of her Southern Pecan, Chocolate Bourbon Pecan, and German Chocolate pies by \$2 to \$24.

While pecans have risen the most, Miller is seeing price increases across the board, from blackberries to condensed milk and eggs. She consults with three food brokers weekly to source the lowest prices for ingredients. But she still needs to charge more for the nut pies.

"We can't absorb that cost and still meet wage demands, increased cost of goods in our tins and boxes, and afford to live as a family," she said.

Sharply higher costs are yet another challenge thrown at business owners by the global pandemic. The unpredictability of shipping, labor and the coronavirus itself have created an environment where owners are often left guessing about when products might arrive and how much they'll cost. The Labor Department said Thursday that prices at the wholesale level rose a record 9.7% in December from a year ago.

"There's a tremendous amount of not just risk — risk you can calculate — but uncertainty. We just don't know what's going to happen," said Ray Keating, chief economist with the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council. "Consumer demand is there, but there are just enormous supply chain constraints. All of this is feeding into price increases."

In response, owners are raising prices, cutting staff hours, dropping some goods and services and nixing free shipping in a delicate balancing act. But with low visibility into how long the higher inflation will last, some owners are increasingly worried about keeping their doors open in



Deena Jalal, owner of plant-based ice cream chain FoMu, works behind the counter in her shop on Tremont Street, Friday, Jan 14, 2022, in Boston. (AP Photo/Michael Dwyer)

the long run.

"We put out new fires every single day and have had to reassess the way we do business to cater to new behaviors," said Deena Jalal, owner of plant-based ice cream chain FoMu and co-founder of wholesaler Sweet Tree Creamery in Boston.

For her FoMu shops, the cost of business overall rose about 15% in 2021 compared with 2020. She has raised prices about 10% but taken other measures, too: shifting to more delivery and cutting flavors like avocado ice cream, which became too expensive to make as avocado prices rose.

"No business can sustain the rapid increase in expenses that we have seen in the last year," Jalal said. "You used to be able to work really hard and see progress. Now you work really hard just to try to stay afloat."

Jalal is apprehensive about the long-term prospects for the small business community if inflation doesn't calm down soon. "If we have to work this puzzle for another

two years, I really do think we'll see a lot of businesses — ourselves included — struggle to keep their doors open."

Elizabeth Benedict, owner of interior design firm Elizabeth Home Decor & Design in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, said prices have risen 7% to 30% for all the products she buys. She pays shipping surcharges on top of that.

"Most of these (increases) come with less than a two-week notice," she said. "We cannot guarantee any quotes that go out and have had to adjust our contract as well as all of our language on our proposals to reflect these variable conditions."

To deal with rising costs and overseas shipping delays, Benedict significantly changed her vendor list, and now shops only with U.S. brands that make products in the U.S. And she added services like e-commerce and virtual design. But she's still facing longer timelines for her projects and is not taking on new clients until things stabilize. "We continue to pivot with

the punches, but definitely feel like we are being pushed and pulled in too many directions," she said. Some online vendors are eliminating free shipping to combat costs. Gianluca Boncompagni, owner of e-commerce site Off Road Tents, which sells off-road and overlanding equipment, saw logistics costs quadruple. In October 2020, he paid \$6,300 for a 40-foot container coming from China. By October 2021, he was paying \$26,000 for the same sized container.

Boncompagni has raised prices about 5% and started to charge a flat shipping rate depending on item size. While he may lower prices in the future, the shipping charge is here to stay, he said.

"There is simply no way most online businesses can keep shipping pallets and less-than-truckload shipments without having to charge at least a bit for them," he said.

Some businesses are using channels they developed during the pandemic to communicate with customers about why prices are increasing, in the hopes they'll be patient.

Kialee Mulumba, founder of beauty brand Jakeala in Newport News, Virginia, has had to raise prices of her beauty products by \$1 to \$5. Her container prices have doubled — with one that used to be 50 cents now costing \$1. Prices for organic olive oil butters and conditioners have all risen 5% to 10% and shipping from China is up 5%. She also cut her four employees' hours from full time to part time.

Mulumba emailed customers to be transparent and let them know prices were going up due to the rising cost of supplies. But she has noticed a slight decrease in sales.

"I just hope the consumers support the small businesses they like — this is the time to support small business," she said. "Even if you can't purchase, you can share posts, like, or comment — that would really go far." □



Deena Jalal, owner of plant-based ice cream chain FoMu, poses behind the counter in her shop on Tremont Street, Friday, Jan 14, 2022, in Boston. (AP Photo/Michael Dwyer)

CROSSWORD

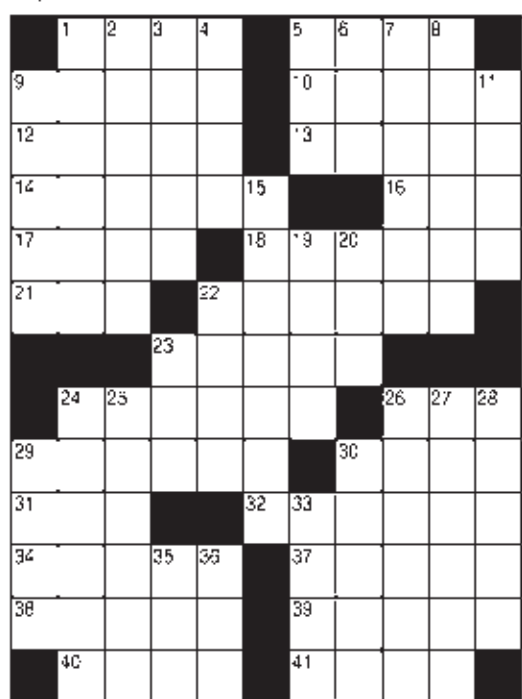
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 34 Cache
 - 1 Speedy
 - 5 Says further
 - 9 "Divine Comedy" writer
 - 10 Trans-parent
 - gemstone
 - 12 More mature
 - 13 Stockholm native
 - 14 Shines
 - 16 Termite's cousin
 - 17 Lunch or dinner
 - 18 London river
 - 21 Writer Beattie
 - 22 Formal
 - 23 Docking spots
 - 24 Sacred Egyptian beetle
 - 26 Workout unit
 - 29 Apollo Theater setting
 - 30 Volcano shape
 - 31 Had lunch
 - 32 Prepares broccoli



Saturday's answer

- DOWN**
- 1 Collapsed
 - 2 Like
 - 3 Filch
 - 4 Time in office
 - 5 Crunch targets
 - 6 Grass coating
 - 7 Reveries
 - 8 Australian port
 - 9 Church doctrine
 - 11 "Why don't we!"
 - 15 Brooks
 - 19 Thyme or tarragon
 - 20 Donkey
 - 22 Dreadful
 - 23 Chum
 - 24 Zen
 - 25 Defeats decisively
 - 26 Wandered
 - 27 Hatred
 - 28 Nuisances
 - 29 "Very funny!"
 - 30 Handed over
 - 33 Not wild
 - 35 Fish eggs
 - 36 Rap's Dr. —



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-17 CRYPTOQUOTE

IDRA XR AVD RDLJDA FB
GEE CDGHAZ, AVDDJ XR WF
C D G H A Z A V G A X R
GAAJGLAXKD PXAVFHA IDRA
— LVJXRAXGW QXFI

Saturday's Cryptoquote: ONE CAN NEVER PAY IN GRATITUDE; ONE CAN ONLY PAY "IN KIND" SOMEWHERE ELSE IN LIFE. — ANNE MORROW LINDBERGH



Britain's Prince Harry arrives in the gardens of Buckingham Palace in London, Jan. 16, 2020. Prince Harry has filed a claim for a judicial review against the British government's decision not to let him personally pay for police protection while in the U.K. (AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth, File)

Prince Harry files court claim over UK police protection

By Sylvia Hui

(AP) — Prince Harry has filed a claim for a judicial review against the British government's decision not to let him personally pay for police protection while in the U.K.

The Duke of Sussex's legal representative said Saturday that Harry wants to bring his children Archie and Lilibet to visit his home country from the U.S. but that is too risky without police protection.

The representative said Harry wanted to fund the police protection himself. His private security team in the U.S. doesn't have adequate jurisdiction abroad or access to U.K. intelligence information, they said.

"The Duke and Duchess of Sussex personally fund a private security team for their family, yet that security cannot replicate the necessary police protection needed whilst in the U.K.," a statement said.

"In the absence of such protection, Prince Harry and his family are unable to return to his home."

The claim to a judicial review was filed in September to challenge the British government's decision-making behind the security procedures.

Harry and his wife Meghan lost publicly funded police protection in the U.K. when they stepped down as senior working royals and moved to North America in 2020. The couple said their decision was due to what they described as unbearable intrusions and racist attitudes of the British media.

The couple first went to Canada before settling in the United States. They stated that they privately funded security for their move to the U.S. after then President Donald Trump said his government wouldn't pay for their protection.

The statement said Harry's security was "compromised due to the absence of police protection" during a short visit to the U.K. in July, when his car was chased by photographers as he left a charity event. Harry and Meghan's 7-month-old daughter

Lilibet has yet to meet her great-grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, and other members of the royal family. The statement said Harry first offered to personally pay for U.K. police protection for himself and his family in January 2020, during talks with the queen over the Sussexes' future. The offer was "dismissed," the statement said.

"The goal for Prince Harry has been simple — to ensure the safety of himself and his family while in the UK so his children can know his home country," it said. "The UK will always be Prince Harry's home and a country he wants his wife and children to be safe in." Britain's government said its security system is "rigorous and proportionate" and declined to comment on details. It also said it was inappropriate to comment on any legal proceedings. □

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24/7

Tesla inks deal to get key battery component outside China



A Tesla Supercharger station in Buford, Ga, on April 22, 2021. Tesla is turning to Mozambique for a key component in its electric car batteries in what analysts believe is a first-of-its-kind deal designed to reduce its dependence on China for graphite. (AP Photo/Chris Carlson, File)

By Tom Bowker and Tom Krisher

Associated Press

(AP) — Tesla is turning to Mozambique for a key component in its electric car batteries in what analysts believe is a first-of-its-kind deal designed to reduce its dependence on China for graphite.

Elon Musk's company signed an agreement last month with Australia's Syrah Resources, which operates one of the world's largest graphite mines in the southern African country. It's a unique partnership between an electric vehicle manufacturer and a producer of the mineral that is critical for lithium-ion batteries. The value of the deal hasn't been released. Tesla will buy the material from the company's pro-

cessing plant in Vidalia, Louisiana, which sources graphite from its mine in Balama, Mozambique. The Austin, Texas-based electric automaker plans to buy up 80% of what the plant produces — 8,000 tons of graphite per year — starting in 2025, according to the agreement. Syrah must prove the material meets Tesla's standards.

The deal is part of Tesla's plan to ramp up its capacity to make its own batteries so it can reduce its dependence on China, which dominates global graphite markets, said Simon Moores of United Kingdom-based battery materials data and intelligence provider, Benchmark Mineral Intelligence.

"It starts at the top with geopolitics," Moores said. "The

U.S. wants to build enough capacity domestically to be able to build (lithium-ion batteries) within the USA. And this deal will permit Tesla to source graphite independent from China." Moores said producing the batteries in the U.S. will reduce some of the questions Tesla is facing about its ties to China, where there are environmental concerns at some mines. □



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Italian skier Brignone wins World Cup super-G with gutsy run

Associated Press

(AP) — Federica Brignone saw a gutsy run rewarded with the victory Sunday in the fifth women's World Cup super-G of the season. Racing in perfect, sunny conditions, the Italian gained about three-tenths of a second on her rivals with an attacking and risky approach in the middle part of the Kälberloch course.

While many racers posted faster times at the first split, no one matched Brignone's pace in the turning steep section.

"I was really attacking from the top to the bottom," said the overall World Cup champion from two seasons ago.

"Today was not easy to put all the pieces of the puzzle together, because there's some girls really fast in some sections, but then making a small mistake."

The top 20 finished within 1.04 seconds of the winning time.



Italy's Federica Brignone celebrates at finish area after completing an alpine ski, women's World Cup super-G race in Zauchensee, Austria, Sunday, Jan. 16, 2022. (AP Photo/Marco Trovati)

Corinne Suter came closest with a strong finish to close the gap to Brignone to 0.04 seconds. It was the best result of the season for the downhill world champion from Switzerland.

"My confidence has been lacking until now, you

could see it in every turn. Now I feel I am completely on the right track again," Suter said.

Ariane Rädler was 0.17 behind in third for the Austrian's first career podium result.

Brignone's triumph came

one week after she sat out a giant slalom in Slovenia with a knee issue. She worked with physiotherapists to get ready for the speed races this weekend. "My knee was not perfect. But the best thing was that it was good when skiing. I

had almost no problem," she said. The result marked Brignone's Italian record extending 18th career win, and sixth in a super-G. It's the first time Brignone has won multiple super-G races in one season.

"For me, it's important. It's an emotion. I have won before in my career but it's always nice," she said.

Italian teammate Sofia Goggia, who had a nasty crash in Saturday's downhill on the same slope, started despite complaining about being sore.

"My whole body hurts. But skiing is better than going for a walk," she said before the race, in which she avoided risk taking and finished 0.92 behind teammate Brignone in 19th.

Goggia also has two super-G wins this season, and the two Italians are clearly ahead in the super-G season standings, with Goggia leading Brignone by just five points with four races left. □

Suspended game in Spain to resume without injured player

By Tales Azzoni

Associated Press

(AP) — The Copa del Rey match suspended after an object was thrown from the stands will resume Sunday behind closed doors and without the Sevilla player hit in the head in what the club called an "appalling attack."

Sevilla midfielder Joan Jordán was doing well at home but will not play when the match between his club and Real Betis restarts from the 39th minute with the score tied at 1-1 at the Benito Villamarín Stadium.

Jordán had been taken to a hospital after being hit by a piece of PVC hurled from the stands while Betis was celebrating Nabil Fekir's equalizer before halftime in the round-of-16 match between the fierce Sevilla rivals.

Jordán underwent a series of tests and was diagnosed with a head trauma. He will remain under observation for at least 24 hours, the Spanish soccer federation said Sunday.



Sevilla's Joan Jordan, left, vies for the ball with Barcelona's Gavi during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Sevilla and Barcelona at the Ramon Sanchez-Pizjuan stadium, in Seville, Spain, Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2021. (AP Photo/Angel Fernandez)

The federation said it wanted to avoid major logistical challenges by keeping the match at the Villamarín stadium, but no fans will be allowed "to guarantee the match ends without new incidents, considering the seriousness of what hap-

pened." The match will restart 4 p.m. local time (1500 GMT), just hours before the Spanish Super Cup final between Real Madrid and Athletic Bilbao takes place in Saudi Arabia. Only one other Copa del Rey match was

scheduled for Sunday, with Valencia visiting Atlético Baleares.

"Sevilla condemns the violent act suffered by Joan Jordán, an unacceptable act in the world of sport committed by an individual who, of course, does not

represent the fans of Real Betis or the way of living football in our city," Sevilla said in a statement early Sunday. "Likewise, the club demands the utmost respect for Joan Jordán, a true professional and an exemplary person who has suffered an appalling attack."

Betis players condemned the incident but some accused Sevilla coach Julen Lopetegui of trying to urge Jordán to go down after being hit.

"Shameful and unjustifiable act by someone who does not represent our fans," Betis substitute Víctor Camarasa said on Twitter. "I hope that Joan Jordán is OK, but we all heard (even the assistant referee) his coach tell him to 'be dizzy and drop to the ground.'"

The Seville derby is notorious for being Spain's most fiercely contested cross-town rivalry. In 2007, Sevilla coach Juande Ramos was knocked unconscious when he was hit in the head by a bottle thrown by a Betis fan. □

Novak Djokovic's legal loss is loss for Open, fans

By Howard Fendrich

(AP) - Novak Djokovic's loss in a court of law is also a loss for the Australian Open, a loss for tennis fans and a loss for the sport as a whole. Setting aside, for a moment, everything that led to his deportation from Australia on Sunday — a fundamentally hard-to-fathom reason for any athlete to be forced to sit out any event — who wouldn't want to see the player who dominated men's Grand Slam tennis in 2021 competing for what would be a historic title to begin 2022? Unaccustomed to defeats on a big stage, especially lately, he could have pursued his 10th trophy at Melbourne Park, which would break his own record, and his 21st overall from all major championships, which would break the men's mark he shares with Rafael Nadal (who is in Australia) and Roger Federer (who is not, following knee surgery).

Instead, when play begins in Australia on Monday (Sunday in the U.S.), 2009 winner Nadal, as it turns out, will be the only past Australian Open champ in the 128-player men's field. And 150th-ranked Salvatore Caruso, a 29-year-old from Italy who is on a four-match losing streak in Grand Slam main-draw play and failed to get through qualifying in Melbourne, will be on the line in the bracket where No. 1 Djokovic stood until Sunday's Federal Court decision.

Less than 18 hours before the start of the tournament, a three-judge panel unanimously upheld a government minister's right to cancel Djokovic's visa, ending his last-ditch effort to be able to play and bringing a close to what the ATP Tour rightly called "a deeply regrettable series of events." This was how Nadal put it on Saturday, when everyone still was awaiting a resolution: "Honestly, I'm a little bit tired of the situation."

At the heart of the 11-day saga was Djokovic's decision not to get vaccinated against COVID-19, which

was a requirement for anyone at the Australian Open: players, their coaches and other entourage members, spectators, media members and everyone else on-site, too. More than 95% of all Top 100 men and women in their tours' respective rankings are vaccinated. Djokovic sought, and initially was granted, a medical exemption, saying that he tested positive for COVID-19 in December. In the end, he was forced to leave Australia because he was seen as someone who could stir up anti-vaccine sentiments in a country, like many others, going through a surge of the omicron variant.

That's a big reason this drew so much attention. Yes, it involved one of the



Defending men's champion Serbia's Novak Djokovic practices on Rod Laver Arena ahead of the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2022. AP Photo/Mark Baker)

most successful and famous athletes around, someone who came within one victory of the first calendar-year Grand Slam in men's tennis since 1969. □

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such as the Spicy Caribbean Seafood pasta, Mahi Mahi or pan fried Red Snapper served with Aruban creole sauce or garlic lemon butter. For the carnivores among us there are choices of 8 ounce seasoned Filet Mignon, 12 ounce Rib Eye steak or a French Rack of Lamb seasoned and grilled to perfection. With choices of extra sides of fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wines from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu. Vegetarians will enjoy the roasted vegetable pasta tossed in a light butter sauce and topped with freshly shaved parmesan cheese. As desserts the choices are wild. Homemade key lime pie, coconut flan served with caramel sauce and whipped cream or a NY cheese cake, chocolate brownie with chocolate sauce vanilla ice cream and whipped cream or a delicious oven fresh carrot cake served with orange sauce and candied pecans.



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